

Appl. No. 10/027,719
Amdt. Dated July 14, 2003
Reply to Office Action of Apr. 29, 2003

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for forming a nonwoven web comprising the steps of:

incorporating into a first polymeric component a butylene-propylene copolymer, wherein the units of said copolymer consist of butylene and propylene;

melt spinning multicomponent filaments, said filaments comprising a said first polymeric component and a second polymeric component, said first second polymeric component having a faster solidification rate than said second first polymeric component, ~~said second polymeric component containing a butylene-propylene copolymer, wherein the units of said copolymer consist of butylene and propylene;~~

drawing said multicomponent filaments;

naturally crimping said multicomponent filaments; and

thereafter forming said multicomponent filaments into a nonwoven web.

2. (Currently Amended) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein said second first polymeric component comprises polyethylene.

3. (Original) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein said butylene-propylene copolymer comprises a random copolymer containing up to about 20% by weight butylene.

4. (Currently Amended) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein said butylene-propylene copolymer is present in ~~added to~~ said second first polymeric component in an amount up to about 10 percent by weight.

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5. (Currently Amended) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein said butylene-propylene copolymer is present in ~~added to~~ said ~~second~~ first polymeric component in an amount from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight.
6. (Currently Amended) A process as defined in claim 2, wherein said first ~~second~~ polymeric component comprises polypropylene.
7. (Currently Amended) A process as defined in claim 2, wherein said first ~~second~~ polymeric component comprises a material selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester and propylene-ethylene copolymers.
8. (Currently Amended) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein said ~~second~~ first polymeric component further comprises reclaimed polymers, said reclaimed polymers comprising polypropylene, polyethylene or copolymers of propylene and ethylene.
9. (Original) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein said multicomponent filaments have a linear density of less than about 2 denier.
10. (Currently Amended) A process for forming a nonwoven web comprising the steps of:
- incorporating into a first polymeric component a butylene-propylene copolymer, wherein the units of said copolymer consist of butylene and propylene, said first polymeric component further comprising polyethylene;
- melt spinning bicomponent filaments, said bicomponent filaments comprising a said first polymeric component and a second polymeric component, said ~~first~~ second polymeric component comprising polypropylene, ~~said second polymeric component~~

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~~comprising a mixture of polyethylene and a butylene-propylene copolymer, wherein the units of said copolymer consist of butylene and propylene;~~

drawing said bicomponent filaments;

crimping said bicomponent filaments; and

thereafter forming said bicomponent filaments into a nonwoven web.

11. (Original) A process as defined in claim 10, wherein said bicomponent filaments are crimped by subjecting said filaments to a flow of a gas.

12. (Currently Amended) A process as defined in claim 10, wherein said butylene-propylene copolymer is present in said ~~second~~ first polymeric component in an amount from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight.

13. (Original) A process as defined in claim 12, wherein said butylene-propylene copolymer comprises a random copolymer containing about 14% by weight butylene.

14. (Currently Amended) A process as defined in claim 10, wherein said first ~~second~~ polymeric component further comprises reclaimed polymers, said reclaimed polymers comprising polypropylene, polyethylene or copolymers of propylene and ethylene.

15. (Currently Amended) A process as defined in claim 14, wherein said reclaimed polymers are present in said first ~~second~~ polymeric component in an amount up to about 20% by weight.

16. (Original) A process as defined in claim 10, wherein said bicomponent filaments have a linear density of less than about 2 denier.

17. (Original) A process as defined in claim 10, wherein said crimped bicomponent filaments contain at least 10 crimps per inch.

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18. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web comprising spunbond multicomponent crimped filaments, said multicomponent crimped filaments being made from at least a first polymeric component and a second polymeric component, said first polymeric component having a faster solidification rate than said second polymeric component, said second polymeric component containing a butylene-propylene random copolymer, wherein the units of said copolymer consist of butylene and propylene.

19. (Original) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 18, wherein said second polymeric component comprises polyethylene.

20. (Original) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 19, wherein said butylene-propylene random copolymer is present within said second polymeric component in an amount up to about 5% by weight.

21. (Original) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 20, wherein said first polymeric component comprises polypropylene.

22. (Original) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 21, wherein said butylene-propylene random copolymer contains up to about 20% by weight butylene.

23. (Original) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 22, wherein said multicomponent crimped filaments have a linear density of less than about 2 denier.

24-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) A process comprising:
incorporating into a first polymeric component a butylene-propylene copolymer, wherein the units of said copolymer consist of butylene and propylene;
melt spinning multicomponent filaments from said first polymeric component and at least a second polymeric component;

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drawing said multicomponent filaments; and

thereafter forming said multicomponent filaments into a nonwoven web wherein said butylene-propylene copolymer is present in said web in an amount sufficient to increase the strength of said web prior to being thermally bonded.

29. (Original) A process as defined in claim 28, wherein said butylene-propylene copolymer is added to said first polymeric component in an amount from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight.